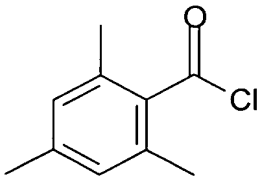
Claims as enclosed to IPRP

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C_1-C_{20}-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzoyl chlorides (I), by, in a first stage, reacting a 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C_1-C_{20}-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzene (II) with CCl_4 in the presence of $AICI_3$ and subsequent hydrolysis of the formed $AICI_3$ complex to give the corresponding 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C_1-C_{20}-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted trichloromethylated aromatic (III),
and, in a second stage, the trichloromethylated benzene (III) is hydrolyzed with water in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the benzoyl chloride (I), wherein in the second stage the aqueous organic phase from the hydrolysis of the $AICI_3$ complex is used, and water-free CCI_4 is destilled off after the hydrolysis.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein trimethylbenzoyl chloride of the formula (Ib)



(Ib)

is prepared from mesitylene as the substituted benzene (II).

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the molar ratio of CCl_4 to substituted aromatic (II) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.

4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of $AlCl_3$ per equivalent of the substituted benzene (II) are used.

5. The process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (III) and $AlCl_3$ is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C.

6. The process according to claim 5, wherein the hydrolysis of the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and $AlCl_3$ is carried out continuously.

7. The process according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the catalyst used in the second stage is $FeCl_3$.